

Weekly Status & Information Report: April 1 - 5, 2013

1. Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of April 8, 2013:

- City Council meeting, Monday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
- Tree Commission meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Lilac Room
- Recreation Committee meeting, Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held in the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, and are open to the public. To confirm that a meeting will be held as scheduled, call the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or email jessiec@takomagov.org. (City Clerk)

2. Public Hearing on Proposed Charter Amendment "Voting and Elections:" The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium to hear comments on a proposed Charter Amendment that would (1) adjust qualifications for voting; (2) set a minimum age of 18 for serving as Mayor or Councilmember; (3) lower the voting age to 16; (4) reduce the 30-day City residency requirement for being qualified to vote in City elections to 21 days; (5) provide for early voting in all City elections; and (6) allow for same day voter registration. The full text of the proposed amendment is available online at: <http://takomaparkmd.gov>. Interested persons should plan to attend the public hearing and sign up to speak or submit written comments to the City Clerk at clerk@takomagov.org. (City Clerk)

3. TONIGHT Mathematically Inclined Artist Talk: The artists participating in the Mathematically Inclined exhibit present their work, giving us a peek into the making of their art. Friday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Free Admission. www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events (Housing and Community Development)

4. French Circle Time: Tomorrow, April 6, Madame Marie returns with French Circle Time - Songs and rhymes in French - 10:30 a.m. (Library)

5. Construction to Start on Ritchie Avenue Traffic Calming Project: The City's contractor will begin installation of traffic calming measures and new sidewalks on Ritchie Avenue, Geneva Avenue and Oswego Avenue the week of April 8. Construction will continue through the month. The project includes installation of five bump outs on Ritchie Avenue between Piney Branch Road and Oswego Avenue, a traffic circle at the intersection of Ritchie Avenue and Oswego Avenue, and a new sidewalk on Oswego Avenue and Geneva Avenue. Sections of the street will be posted for no parking during construction. The road will remain open, but traffic may be delayed for short periods of time for construction vehicles and workers. (Public Works)

6. Caldecott Birthday Club: Our popular Caldecott Birthday Club will meet on Monday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. This program for enthusiasts of all ages will be devoted to Caldecott winners from 2000 to 2009. Cookies and lemonade will be served. (Library)

7. Comics Jam!: Comics jam with Dave Burbank returns on Tuesday, April 9, at 4:00 p.m. Share and enjoy your favorites with Dave on the big screen. (Library)

8. Friends Reading Group: The Friends Reading Group will discuss "Men in the Sun and Other Palestinian Stories" by Ghassan Kanafani in the Azalea Room on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. Kanafani, the famous Palestinian journalist, novelist, and short story writer, whose writings were deeply rooted in Arab Palestinian culture, inspired a whole generation during and after his lifetime. All are invited to join the Friends Reading Group discussions. (Library)

9. Friends Board Meeting: On Wednesday, April 10, the Friends of the Library Board meets in the Library at 7:45 p.m. (Library)

10. Kolam Workshop - Saturday, April 13: Explore geometric drawings from south Asia with artist Shanthi Chandra Sekar, gallery coordinator for the Mathematically Inclined Exhibit. Saturday, April 13, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Art Room in the Takoma Park Community Center. Free Admission. www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events (Housing and Community Development)

11. Two Public Meetings for C2-C4 Metrobus Line Study: The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is holding two public meetings for its study of Metrobus routes C2 and C4 on Wednesday, April 17, in Wheaton, and Thursday, April 18 in Hyattsville. Both meetings are in the evening (5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.) for the purpose of hearing feedback from riders of the C2-C4 routes about a set of preliminary recommendations for improvements to bus service along the line. These busy routes run through the Takoma/Langley Crossroads on University Boulevard and are "priority corridors". For more information on the study and location of the meetings, see: <http://www.metrobus-studies.com/C2-C4/C2-C4.htm>. (Housing and Community Development)

12. Poetry Workshop: A special poetry workshop featuring local poets Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees will be held Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Kids five and up can have fun turning their thoughts into poetry and art. Contact the Library to register. (Library)

13. Mark Your Calendars! April 23 at 7:30 p.m., the City will be holding a follow up community meeting for the Flower Avenue Green Street project. The design team will present updated design plans in more detail, and will report on proposed changes to bus stop locations, additional street lighting options and bio-retention locations. The meeting will take place at Wilkinson Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23. (Public Works)

14. CDA and WAU Clean Up on the New Ave: On Wednesday, April 4, the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority

with student volunteers from Washington Adventist University picked up litter and other garbage along New Hampshire Avenue from East West Highway, up to University Boulevard. The New Ave has never looked better! To view photos of their exploits, see: www.facebook.com/TheNewAve/photos_stream. (Housing and Community Development)

15. 36 Philadelphia Demolished: The dilapidated and falling single family house at 36 Philadelphia Avenue finally was demolished and the site restored this week. All work removing the house rubble, dead tree, and hazardous materials was permitted, monitored and inspected by the various required entities under a District Court Order obtained by the City. The costs of this work and associated legal work will be billed to the property owner. The property remains in the legal owner's name. The City will continue to monitor the site for maintenance issues. (Housing and Community Development)

16. "Flower Dreams" Mural Unveiled in Long Branch: On Wednesday, April 4, the new mural "Flower Dreams" was unveiled on the wall at 8639 Flower Avenue, near the corner of Piney Branch Road. The mural was created by inmates of a local corrections facility, and was the product of several local organizations, including the Long Branch Business League and Class Acts Arts. A group of 45 community members and officials celebrated the unveiling, including Mayor Bruce Williams, Ward 5 Councilmember Jarrett Smith, and County Councilmember Valerie Ervin. (Housing and Community Development)

17. Register for Bike To Work Day: The region's biggest celebration of bicycle commuting is returning to Takoma Park this May with three pit stops at the Takoma Langley Crossroads, on Sligo Creek Trail, and in Old Takoma. The May 17 event is free and participants who pre-register are treated coffee, juice, morning snacks, entertainment, a chance to win a free bike and other prizes, and of course a Bike To Work Day t-shirt. Register today at <http://biketoworkmetrodc.com/>. (Housing and Community Development)

18. Counselor in Training (CIT): Prior to volunteering for summer camp, teens will be required to attend a three-day Counselor in Training (CIT) program hosted by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. During these trainings, teens ages 14-17 will have an opportunity to develop leadership skills while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. YOU MUST REGISTER BY APRIL 30. Residents: \$25.00. For more information or questions, please contact Ms. Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283. (Recreation Department)

17. Save the Date - Celebrate Takoma Festival - May 19, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.: The Recreation Department, along with the Recreation Committee, will be hosting the first ever Celebrate Takoma Festival. We will spend the afternoon celebrating the cultural diversity of the city with food, merchandise, and community vendors as well as entertainment and games from around the world. If you are interested in vending, performing or would like to showcase a game passed down from generation to generation and are local to Takoma Park, please email celebratetakoma@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7290. (Recreation Department)

18. Teens on the Move Camp (ages 13-17): The Teens on the Move Camp combines a perfect balance of experiential learning, community service, fun activities and career development. Registration has begun so register today! Camp Sessions are one week in length and start July 8. Campers will meet daily at the Takoma Park Community Center and go on a variety of trips. Residents: \$110.00 per week/\$120.00 Non-Resident. For more information or questions, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomagov.org (<mailto:LeiciaM@takomagov.org>) or 301-891-7283. (Recreation Department)

19. Flag Football League (Ages 6-11): Our inaugural Flag Football season has begun this week in the form of practices. All teams will practice this week and game schedules will start Friday, April 5. There are only a handful of spaces left for anyone who wants to participate. Games are played on Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Ed Wilhelm Field; \$40.00 Residents / \$50.00 Non-Residents. For more info visit www.takomaparkmd.gov. (Recreation Department)

20. Books and Basketball: On Friday April 5, 2013 at 6 p.m., members of the Recreation Department staff will be attending the Books and Basketball event at Takoma Park Middle School. There will be a basketball game that features the students against the staff members. We will be refereeing the game and some department staff will play with the faculty of Takoma Park Middle School. This is an event to promote sports and reading in school. (Recreation Department)

21. S.A.T. Prep Course (ages 13-17): SAT Prep Class is FULL! The SAT Prep class has reached its maximum registration. The class began on Monday April 1, 2013. During this class students will learn to write effective college application essays. In addition, teens will write timed SAT practice essays and learn how to analyze and answer questions in the Critical Reading and Writing Sections. Students will be using the *Official SAT Study Guide, Second Edition, published by the College Board. *Official SAT Study Guide will be provided by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. This six week course will run from April 1 - May 6, 2013. For more information on upcoming teen programs, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283. (Recreation Department)

22. Black College Expo (ages 13-17): On Saturday, March 30, 2013 the teens visited the Black College Expo at Bowie State University. Participants were able to attend seminars and workshops that focused on finding money for college, being a college athlete, college life and much much more. The expo ended with a step show and other entertainment. Teens were also able to participate in drills conducted by the U.S. Army. For more information on upcoming teen programs please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283. (Recreation Department)

23. Teen Fitness Program is Going Well!: On Monday and Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., the Takoma Park Recreation Center implements a Teen Fitness program for ages 12-17. This program offers teens the opportunity to improve their strength and agility skills. Teens are led in developing their fitness skills by instructor, Shay Blanchard. This program is free with a Recreation Center

ID card. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7289 or johnw@takomagov.org. (Recreation Department)

24. The Ancient Greek Hero: Discussions to accompany the on-line Harvard EdX course "The Ancient Greek Hero" begin this Sunday, April 7, at 12:30 p.m. in the Computer Center. If you have already joined, get access through the rear parking lot door to the Computer Center. For more information, contact Patti Mallin at pattim@takomagov.org. (Library)

25. Crime Report: The most recent Takoma Park Police Weekly Crime Report (March 29-April 4, 2013) may be viewed online at <http://cathylevy.blogspot.com/2013/04/takoma-park-police-department-weekly.html>. (Police)

26. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 107 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, two Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrests from traffic, one warrant service arrest from traffic and seven vehicle impounds.

During March 26 – April 4, 2013, the following details were completed:

March 26, 2013

- Jackson Ave & Ethan Allen Ave (Stop Sign)- a 30 minute enforcement detail was conducted and issued no citations or warnings
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April 1, 2013

- 7100-6900 block New Hampshire Ave (Tag Reader)- a 4 hour enforcement detail was conducted and issued 21 State citations and two warnings
- Maple Ave & Sherman Ave (Stop Sign)- a 30 minute enforcement detail was conducted and issued three State citations

April 2, 2013

- 7100-6900 block New Hampshire Ave (Tag Reader)- a 3.5 hour enforcement detail was conducted and issued 12 State citations and two warnings
- Flower Ave & Garland Ave (Stop Sign)- a 30 minute enforcement detail was conducted and issued four State citations
- Philadelphia Ave & Piney Branch Rd (Right of Center)- a 30 minute enforcement detail was conducted and issued three warnings

April 3, 2013

- Anne St. & Wildwood Dr. (Stop Sign)- a 30 minute enforcement detail was conducted and issued no citations or warnings

April 4, 2013

- Elm Ave & Lincoln Ave (Stop Sign)- a 30 minute enforcement detail was conducted and issued one warning. (Police)

27. Traffic Officer Stats (Pfc. Walter Smith):

Week of April 1-4

State citations: 37

Calls for service: 16

Reports: 11

Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO): 7

Field Investigative Reports (FIR) written: 2

Warnings: 4

Warrant Arrests: 1

On-View Arrests: 1

Foot Patrol: 3 hours

Court: 2 hours

(Police)